

City of Kent, Shade Tree Commission Meeting Minutes
September 23, 2019
Page 1 of 2

Members Present:

Audrey Kessler
John Belfiore
Peter Hans Kierstead

Staff Present:

Brad McKay, Facilities Mgr. /Arborist
Sheri Chestnutwood, Administrative Assistant

I. Call to Order

Meeting was called to order at 5:03 by Audrey Kessler

II. Roll Call

Audrey Kessler, John Belfiore, Peter Hans Kierstead were present. Guest: Megan Milan was present. Also present, staff members Brad McKay and Sheri Chestnutwood. Andrew Scholl was absent.

III. Approval of Minutes

Audrey Kessler made a motion to approve the minutes of July, 15, 2019, second motion made by Mr. Kierstead.

IV. Staff Report

Mr. McKay stated that crews had been recently picking up brush at the curb due to recent storms and the yard waste transfer site being temporarily closed for grinding. Mr. McKay said that a lot of trees were damaged in the Beryl/Rellim neighborhood due to the recent storms.

Mr. Kierstead asked if trees were more likely to fall due to clay soil.

Mr. McKay responded that tree damage is caused by various reasons, not only soil conditions.

Mr. McKay said that Davey Tree had removed five fallen trees near Plum Creek, behind private property. The trees that had fallen were on city property, therefore needed to be removed.

Mr. McKay said he was still working on the list of species for the fall tree planting, so far he plans have Red Bud, Kentucky Coffee, American Hop Horn Beam planted at various locations. Oak trees planted on Willow St. near the Esplanade, and Japanese Lilac's for the downtown area.

Mr. McKay said that the yard waste transfer site has reopened and is filling up quickly. He explained that the Service Department is looking at different options on how to handle the large amount of material being dropped at the site. Some of the options being considered were limiting the hours and or hiring a security company to monitor the site during open hours. Mr. McKay said that Brimfield Aggregate is no longer taking materials from landscape contractors which he believes could be dumping at the site illegally causing it to fill more quickly. The site is monitored by security camera. Mr. McKay said that a few contractors had been filmed using the site, this information had been forwarded to the Police Department to follow up. Mr. McKay said that Davey Tree currently pays Sagamore Soils \$10.00 per load to drop off material.

The commission members discussed the problems with illegal dumping at the site and the importance of having some weekend hours for resident's to drop off material at the site.

Ms. Kessler emphasized that it is important to have Saturday hours.

V. Old Business

Mr. McKay updated the commission members on plans to reforest the end of Hampton Road, near West Main Street. Davey Tree will monitor the plantings and check for invasive species prior to planting. The area to be planted is approximately 3.4 acres. Shrubs and ground cover as well as saplings will be planted in the area.

VI. New Business

Mr. Kierstad asked about the tree inventory and the inventory software.

Mr. McKay said the inventory is being kept updated, only right-of-way trees are included in the inventory, the software used is from Davey Tree known as Tree Keeper. Mr. McKay said that he will try to set up the TV screen at the next meeting for a demonstration about how the inventory works.

Mr. McKay suggested that during 2020 the Shade Tree Commission try a tree give away at the Farmers Market, he suggested they start with about 20 trees and see how it goes in an attempt to get more trees planted and residents involved. Mr. McKay said he would check with Main Street Kent to see if they had any ideas for a tree give away.

The commission members discussed getting another commission member appointed to the Shade Tree Commission. They briefly discussed the application/interview/appointment process that Council follows when appointing a new member to the Shade Tree Commission.

Mr. McKay said that a new Clerk of Council was recently appointed, he will follow up on getting the opening on the Shade Tree Commission advertised.

The members agreed to hold the next meeting on November 4, 2019 at 5:00pm.

VII. Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Ms. Kessler made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:46pm, the motion was seconded by John Belfiore.